the Burn Wards in Delhi hospitals in response to the findings by the Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to upgrade the Burn Wards of Delhi hospitals;

(c) whether the similar steps would also be taken in hospitals of the other metro cities; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) During the proceedings in CWP No. 2187/1996, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had appointed a high powered committee to look into the deficiencies in the present set up of the Burn Wards of four hospitals, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and to suggest possible measures to rectify/improve them. In its report submitted to the Hon'ble Court, the Committee has made certain recommendations/suggestions for further improvement in the present set up of the Burn Wards of these hospitals. The Hon'ble Court has directed all concerned to comply with these recommendations by the end of August, 2003, which are being implemented. Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to take necessary steps to improve the Burn Wards of the hospitals under their charge.

Eye Banks

1536. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Eye Banks are ill equipped to preserve eyes;

(b) the estimated number of eyes donated every year and how many eyes go waste; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is estimated that about 20,000 corneas are being collected every year in the country. Out of these about 60% corneas are used for restoring sight of corneal blind and remaining are being used for therapeutic, research and laboratory purposes. To increase the rate of utilization of available corneas, prompt removal and transplantation of donated eyes and modern methods of preservation (like M.K. medium) are advocated.

Amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

1537. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce some amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to make it stronger to deal with the spurious drugs manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the gravity of the menace of spurious drugs, Govt, of India has set up an Expert Committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR and Secretary to Govt, of India, to look into the various issues related to Drugs Control Administration including the matter of effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs and making suitable recommendations including changes in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Central Council of Indian Medicine

1538. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Council of Indian Medicine